

**Fourth Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT MIKHAIL S. GORBACHEV OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS TO THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON
THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

I should like to greet the participants in this extremely important Conference.

During the years of its operation the Treaty has become an essential part of the legal foundation of international relations.

In the context of the real nuclear disarmament which has now commenced, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons acquires a special significance. Compliance with the Treaty is becoming a factor in the successful continuation of that process.

I should like to make it perfectly clear that the goal of Soviet foreign policy remains unchanged: it is to strengthen the 1968 Treaty and achieve its universal application. The Soviet Union is in favour of providing effective safeguards to the non-nuclear countries against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Our objective is to ban nuclear weapons, to eliminate them completely under effective international control, and to build a nuclear-free world. The Soviet Union will continue to work persistently towards ensuring a successful outcome at negotiations on all aspects of nuclear disarmament.

One of the priorities of our policy is to achieve the complete cessation and banning of tests of nuclear weapons, which are a legacy of the Cold War.

I think that special mention should be made of the Treaty-related activities carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which verifies the fulfilment by States of their obligations regarding the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, promotes international co-operation in the peaceful applications of atomic energy and ensures its safe use.

I should like to wish the Conference success in its important work.
